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**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT  
OF WORKINGTON**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**PORT MEDICAL OFFICER**

**For the Year 1956**

BY

**JAMES L. HUNTER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**



*Public Health Department,*

*Town Hall, Workington,*

*February, 1957.*



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WORKINGTON STAR LTD,

# MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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*Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR J. R. DAVIS.  
*(Workington Borough)*

COUNCILLOR E. BARRACLOUGH *(Workington Borough)*

COUNCILLOR J. J. CORLETT
--------------------------

*(Workington Borough)*

Died December, 1956

„ A. H. DUNN *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. FISHER *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ A. HALL *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ H. H. McMANUS *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. C. MOORE *(Workington Borough)*

„ W. ROE *(Ennerdale R.D.C.)*

ALDERMAN S. WALKER *(Workington Borough)*

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

February, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Workington Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

My Report for the year 1956 has been made in accordance with the requirements of Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health, dated October, 1952.

There have been no cases of infectious diseases during the year and the health of seamen, generally, has been good.

Amenities for seamen are improving, and the presence of rodents and other vermin in vessels continues to decline satisfactorily.

There were no serious nuisances during the year. Many insanitary conditions were really caused by carelessness on the part of the crew. The degree of cleanliness always reflects the discipline of the ship's master.

#### STAFF.

There has been no change in the personnel of the Authority.

#### SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Ships from.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number Inspected.</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health.</i>	<i>By the Port Health Inspector.</i>	
Foreign Ports	120	224,924	7	120	Nil
Coastwise	420	126,807	Nil	387	Nil
Total	540	351,731	7	507	



CHÁRACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE  
DURING THE YEAR.

*Passenger Traffic.*

Number of passengers Inwards .....	12
Number of passengers Outwards .....	4
(In addition 5 stowaways arrived).	

*Cargo Traffic.*

Imports amounted to 730,957 tons as compared with 699,550 tons during the previous year. Iron ore (including manganese ore) was again the chief import, viz.:—

Iron and Manganese Ores .....	646,722 tons
Coking Coal .....	54,001 tons
Petroleum .....	25,580 tons
Bricks and Ganister .....	3,378 tons
Ingot Moulds .....	1,105 tons
Potatoes .....	171 tons
<hr/>	
730,957 tons	
<hr/>	

Exports amounted to 102,558 tons as compared with 149,132 tons in 1955, viz.:—

Coal .....	9,650 tons
Coke Nuts .....	4,995 tons
Steel .....	62,192 tons
Pig Iron .....	7,869 tons
Ingot Moulds .....	6,129 tons
Pitch .....	3,813 tons
Tar .....	6,368 tons
Petroleum .....	144 tons
General Cargo .....	1,398 tons
<hr/>	
102,558 tons	
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*Ports from which Ships arrived.**Foreign.*

Algeria.	Algiers (19), Bona (15).
Spain.	Seville (17), Almeria (16), Hornillo (2).
Spanish North Africa.	Melilla (16).
Norway.	Kirkenes (15).
Sweden.	Lulea (11).
Russia (Black Sea).	Poti (3).
Portugal.	Setubal (3).
Holland.	Ymuiden (2).
Egypt (Red Sea).	Abu-Zenina (1).

*Coastwise.*

Ardrossan (1).	Holyhead (12).
Bangor (4).	Hayle (1).
Barry (44).	Irvine (1).
Belfast (35).	Kinlochleven (1).
Birkenhead (130).	Londonderry (4).
Barrow (8).	Lytham (1).
Bristol (1).	Liverpool (33).
Ballena (2).	Larne (4).
Cardiff (1).	Manchester (3).
Cork (1).	Mostyn (1).
Connahs Quay (14).	Newry (1).
Dublin (24).	Newport (1).
Douglas (3).	Preston (5).
Ellesmere Port (1).	Runcorn (1).
Fleetwood (2).	Stanlow (29).
Fishing Grounds (3).	Silloth (9).
Greenock (6).	Swansea (2).
Glasgow (12).	Waterford (3).
Heysham (15).	Wicklow (1).

**WATER SAMPLES.**

The Port receives the same water supply as the Borough of Workington, and vessels are supplied from hydrants situated on the dockside. Samples submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year have proved satisfactory.

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels as to the source of the existing water supplies and the frequency of cleaning out water tanks.

Two of the five samples of water taken from foreign-going vessels were declared unsatisfactory by the Bacteriologist, being suspicious of faecal contamination. The water tanks of the vessels concerned were cleaned out.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

The Regulations have continued to work smoothly. There is no matter that calls for special comment.

The details itemised in my previous report remain the same.

#### SMALLPOX.

The hospital, ambulance and laboratory arrangements, mentioned in my last annual report, remain the same.

Thirty foreign seamen on a vessel sailing direct to the United States of America were re-vaccinated.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels and information cards of treatment centres are left.

During the year 27 seamen (16 foreign and 11 British) received treatment.

#### CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

No case of infectious disease was reported.

The following cases of sickness or injury were reported by masters of vessels when docking:—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Complaint.</i>	<i>Treatment.</i>
British.	Heart.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Chest.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Gastritis.	Local Medical Practitioner.
Danish.	Teeth.	Dentist.
Danish.	Broken Arm.	Removed to Hospital.
British.	*Convalescing following Malaria.	Returned Home.
Dutch.	Influenza.	Local Medical Practitioner.
Danish.	†Food Poisoning.	Not confirmed.
Danish.	†Food Poisoning.	Not confirmed.
Danish.	†Food Poisoning.	Not confirmed.
Danish.	†Food Poisoning.	Not confirmed.
Italian.	Eye injury.	Treated at Hospital.

\* This patient was on a vessel from Liverpool.

† The four patients were on a vessel from Poti (Russia), but exhaustive enquiries failed to confirm the Master's diagnosis.



During the year a letter was received from the Liverpool Port Medical Officer intimating that a seaman on a vessel that docked at Liverpool from West Africa had suffered from dysentery during the voyage and was returning to his home at Workington. A visit was made to the man's home and a stool sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory proved negative.

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Vessels are thoroughly searched for the presence of rats. Test baits and traps are laid, and rat guards are available.

Due to the necessity for vessels to carry Deratting and Rodent Control Certificates, the majority entering the Port are rat free. The carrying of mineral cargoes also considerably minimises the risk of rat infestation.

Eighteen Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued to foreign-going vessels, and nineteen Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastwise vessels.

#### INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

<i>Nature and Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Notices served.</i>		<i>Result of serving Notices.</i>
	<i>Statutory Notices.</i>	<i>Other Notices.</i>	
British	456	Nil	42
			2 vessels proceeding to dry dock. 7 attention next port. Remainder carried out.
Foreign	201	Nil	19
			4 vessels next port. Remainder carried out.
Total	657	Nil	61

The sixty-one notices served cover the following defects, nuisances or conditions prejudicial to health:—

	<i>British.</i>	<i>Other Nationalities.</i>
Vermin .....	2	1
Dirty crews' quarters .....	9	6
Dirty messrooms .....	3	4
Dirty beds and bedding .....	6	3

Dirty pantries, galleys or storerooms	3	4
Dirty washplaces .....	4	5
Choked scuppers or sinks .....	12	7
Choked and/or dirty waterclosets...	19	11
Defective shower fittings .....	1	—
Defective ports .....	9	2
Defective ventilators or insufficient ventilation .....	7	7
Leaking steampipes or radiators ...	9	6
Leaking overhead decks .....	2	1
Vegetable lockers to protect and repair .....	1	4
Water tanks to clean .....	2	1
	—	—
	89	62
	—	—

The number of vessels entering the Port during 1956 decreased by 38 as compared with the previous year.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Total Net Tonnage.</i>
1952	491	320,710
1953	533	344,134
1954	504	391,962
1955	578	355,141
1956	540	351,731

The nationalities of the vessels entering the Port were:—

British .....	397
Costa Rican .....	29
Swedish .....	12
Norwegian .....	22
Dutch .....	36
French .....	11
Spanish .....	6
German .....	3
Danish .....	13
Panamanian .....	4
Republic of Ireland .....	5
Turkish .....	2
	—
	540
	—

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Two notices were served under the Parrots and Miscellaneous Birds (Prohibition of Importation) Order, 1953.

The foreshore under the Authority's jurisdiction has been periodically inspected. The carcasses of one sheep and one whale which had been washed up were removed and disposed.

During the year a new brick structure was opened on the Dockside comprising sanitary arrangements, shower baths, lockers, canteen and an ambulance station. This ends numerous complaints to, and long negotiations with, the Harbour and Dock Board regarding the lack of proper amenities for Dock employees.

I must record my appreciation to the Staff of the Port Health Authority, whose assistance has ensured the smooth operation of the various duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. HUNTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Port Medical Officer.*







